

# THE FALCON FLYER

September 6, 2011

[www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral)

Dear Floral Families,

We hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful long weekend that came after a very successful first week of school. We could not have been more pleased and excited by the start of the year here at Floral Street School. Each year we begin the year talking about how *if there is a school that could be both the highest achieving and the most joyful*, we would like it to be us. This year's start was no small step in that direction.

One way that our students are learning how to create both high achievement and joyful learning is through our Floral FACTS. This acronym, now in place for its sixth school year, helps guide us all in achieving the promise of our core values: *working together, maximizing our learning, having a positive attitude about our learning, and respect*. FACTS stands for:

F	Focus
A	Attitude
C	Confidence
T	Try your Best
S	Stamina

Each year at the beginning of the year we take time to focus on these words one at a time, to really discuss and explore what each one means and how we can truly live it as students and faculty members. This past week, we discussed *focus*, and our students showed us through their actions that they really understand what this means. During our first week, we saw careful attention to learning and re-learning school routines; we saw students intently focused on their first academic assignments; we heard students explaining with great enthusiasm how they met their summer reading goals; we saw teachers taking thoughtful and meticulous care to ensure that each of their students had the understanding they needed to be a member of the classroom and school community; we saw students helping our new students in all grades to learn what it means to be a Floral Street student; we saw our 750 young friends be perfectly engaged, respectful, and responsible during our first All-School Meeting, and so much more.

We are so excited the work of past years has allowed us to begin on such a great foot. We are especially grateful to you, our parent community for the support you offer and for the fact that you send us students who are so eager and so well prepared – thank you!

As always, we appreciate it when you share your successes, and your challenges if you are finding them, with us. Best wishes for a great second week of school and the year ahead.

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## **Important Notes:**

### **Important Communications from our Specialists**

We'll be continuing to work this year on eliminating paper coming home directly from the school. You can find these notices on our home page at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=41-774>

### **School Council**

School Council is an important group made up of Floral Street School parents, teachers and administrators, and a community representative. The School Council is an advisory group to the principal, and is responsible for producing the School Improvement Plan each school year. If you would be interested in filling a vacancy on the council, please let Todd Curtis know (using the email address above) by the end of this week.

### **Curriculum Nights**

At the bottom of this notice you will find the dates for our upcoming Curriculum Nights. These are an important opportunity to strengthen our home-school connection. We hope to see you there, and want to make two important notes now:

- Our Curriculum Nights begin **at 6:45 pm** so that administrators can provide a brief but broad curriculum overview, allowing teachers to provide more detail in individual presentations. This is an initiative of our School Council, designed to support parents in their understanding of Floral Street School.
- Please make every effort not to bring students or siblings to the Curriculum Nights.

### **Emergency Contact Information/Elementary Handbook Sign Off**

Emergency contact information must be updated/confirmed for all students electronically. Parents may access the *Demographic Update* page to make changes and/or confirm your child's information via the *PowerSchool Parent Portal* on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website under *Quicklinks*. The link is: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>

The Elementary Handbook can be found on the Floral Street School website at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/index.php?fDD=12-0> . Please read and review with your child.

To make/confirm emergency contact information and acknowledge that your child has read and reviewed the Elementary Handbook:

- Go the SPS website
- Click on *PowerSchool Parent Portal*, and then again at the bottom of the page
- Sign in using your *Username* and *Password* (follow the *Account Creation Directions* if you don't have a *Username* and *Password*)
- Click on *Demographic Change* in the upper right corner
- Update your child's information
- Click the button at the bottom certifying your changes and acknowledging that you and your child have read and discussed the Elementary Handbook

### **PTO**

Want to learn more about the Floral Street School PTO and the opportunities available to help in PTO projects that occur through out the year? The PTO will host a coffee on Wednesday,

September 14th from 9:15 am -10:15 am in the Floral Cafeteria. PTO members will answer your questions about opportunities to get involved, typical time commitments and how the PTO works to support the Floral Street School teachers and staff. We will focus on the Floral Family Fun Fair that will be held on Saturday, November 19th and the opportunities to help plan the fair. If you are unable to attend but would like more information please contact PTO President Hannah Kane at [hkane@townisp.com](mailto:hkane@townisp.com).

The PTO will be conducting a New Fundraiser from Genevieve's running September 6th - 20th. Be on the look out for the beautiful brochure filled wonderful products including Barefoot Contessa & Stonewall Kitchen! Also, if 6 or more items are ordered you will earn a Free Pass to Coco Key Water Resort in Fitchburg! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cherie Weinman at (508) 868-4465 or [cheriew@townisp.com](mailto:cheriew@townisp.com). **Please remember to submit your order forms on or before September 20th.**

### Transportation Notes

Thank you for your assistance with our pick-up and drop-off routines at the beginning of the year – it really helps us run a smooth, safe arrival and dismissal.

- Please remember that if you are dropping off or picking up by car, you must use the approved routines/lines that have been established.
- Please do not pull into the front driveway for any reason after 3:00pm.

Please discuss the following **bus behavior expectations** with your child if you have not already done so:

1. Stay in your seat – no standing, no changing seats.
2. Use indoor voices – no yelling.
3. Keep your arms and all belongings inside the bus.
4. No eating on the bus.
5. Act in a respectful way towards everyone.
6. Always do what the bus driver asks. The bus driver is in charge of keeping a safe bus!
7. Always cross in front of the bus.

**The Elementary Lunch Menu** can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=20-17>

### Important Fall Dates:

September 16	School Picture Day
September 20	Grade 1 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 21	Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 26	Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 27	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
October 10	No School – Columbus Day
November 1	Parent Conferences (No School)
November 11	No School – Veterans' Day
November 23-25	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at on our homepage!

